

In the past I have received many junk calls a day, often at inconvenient times. The only solution I found to stop the calls was to drop my land line and use my cell phone exclusively, an expensive method that should be unnecessary. If I switch back to a land line, the phone company will charge me a lot of money to protect my privacy, yet in all likely-hood will still sell my number to telemarketers. Phone companies, or any company, should be required to get my express permission before giving away my phone number.

I would *ALWAYS* tell the callers to put me on their DNC list. There were always organizations that would call me back repeatedly. The laws to enforce the existing rules are too weak and sometimes confusing. I have heard that many judges throw the cases out because they do not understand them or do not believe they have jurisdiction. The rules should be made clearer.

I work out of an office in my home, and get frequent calls to my fax machine -- a mix of both hang up calls and junk faxes. The hang up calls are annoying, and the junk faxes are outrageous! No one, not even a charity or political organization, should be able to use my paper and toner to send me their messages. All unsolicited faxes should be illegal.

Similarly, charities and tax-exempt organizations should not be exempt from the rules governing telemarketing calls. From my perspective, it is an annoyance no matter who the call is from. I regularly give to charity and will research and choose the organizations I wish to donate to.

Finally, there should be a national do not call list for both voice and fax numbers. It should be easy to get on, or alternatively it should be an opt-in system where all telephone numbers are by default on the do not call list and you must call to have your number removed from the list. I have heard some say they welcome telemarketing calls. This system would allow those who want the calls to get them without annoying the large number of us who do not. There should also be stiff penalties for violators, and clear and simple rules for how consumers can enforce their rights.

Sincerely,
Dennis S. Hennen